

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A composition comprising: a plurality of discreet, substantially flat flakes, each having an average length, an average width and an average thickness, wherein each of the length and width are at least three times the thickness, wherein a longest dimension of each flake is between 100 nanometers and 5 millimeters, ~~and wherein the flakes comprise a drug or a nondrug active agent~~ and said flakes are suitable for oral ingestion.
2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein each of the flakes has a surface area, and wherein the ratio of the surface area to the thickness is at least 25 units:1 unit.
3. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the longest dimension of each flake is between 10 microns and 1 millimeter and wherein the ratio is at least 100 units:1 unit.
4. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the drug comprises at least 5% by weight of the flakes.
5. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the drug comprises at least 10% by weight of the flakes.
6. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the drug comprises at least 25% by weight of the flakes.
7. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the drug comprises at least 50% by weight of the flakes.
8. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the drug is embedded in the flakes.
9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the drug is contained in microspheres embedded within the flakes.
11. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 further comprising a coating on the flakes which separates the drug from the environment.
12. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 further comprising an enteric coating covering the flake.
13. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the flake comprises at least two layers, each of said layers being of a different composition.
14. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the flake comprises at least two layers or at least three layers.
15. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the flake comprises at least 25% by weight of a natural polymer.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the flake comprises a drug uptake enhancer.
18. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the flake is at least 5% by weight a nonfood.
19. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the flake is at least 10% by weight a nonfood.

20. (Currently amended) A composition comprising: a plurality of discrete, substantially flat flakes, each having an average length, an average width and an average thickness, wherein each of the length and width are at least three times the thickness, wherein a longest dimension of each flake is between 100 nanometers and 5 millimeters, ~~and~~ wherein each flake comprises a porous matrix and said flakes are suitable for oral ingestion.
21. (Original) The composition of claim 20 further comprising a drug contained in the porous matrix.
22. (Original) The composition of claim 20, wherein the flakes are at least 5% by weight nonfood.
23. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the composition of any one of claims 1-19, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the drug is present in an amount effective for treating a condition which makes it difficult to swallow.
- 24.-25. (Canceled)
26. (Original) The pharmaceutical preparation of claim 23, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a semi-solid.
27. (Original) The pharmaceutical preparation of claim 23, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a hydrogel.
28. (Original) The pharmaceutical preparation of claim 23, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is a semi-solid food.
- 29.-42. (Canceled)